

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. 10/573,465

First Named Inventor/Applicant: Ingo Drewe

Title: DEVICE FOR MAINTAINING THE POSITION OF A ROTATABLY OR
DISPLACEABLY MOUNTED SHAFT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office action of June 17, 2009. Applicants elect Species (a), the single wrap around band (Fig. 2). Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-19 read on the elected species.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. The other figures each illustrate an alternative gripping body. All species identified by the Examiner have at least some overlap in scope. MPEP 806.05(j). Applicants respectfully submit that the other species, even if patentably distinct, are so inextricably related to one another that they should continue to be examined in a single application.

Practicality and efficiency and the lack of any burden on the Examiner dictate that the claims should be retained and the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/david r. price/

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